

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 07703 191315Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T TEL AVIV 7703

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, IS, XF
SUBJ: MISTREATMENT OF ARAB PRISONERS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REF: STATE 155007

1. I OF COURSE, SHARE COMPLETELY DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN OVER RE-
PORTS OF MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND
AGREE ON IMPORTANCE OF EARLY APPROACH TO GOI. CABINET
RESPONSE TO OUR TWO QUESTIONS IS NOW BEHIND US AND NEGO-
TIATIONS BETWEEN ICRC AND ISRAELIS MAKE THIS OPPORTUNE
TIME TO REITERATE OUR VIEWS TO ISRAELIS ON THIS SUBJECT.
HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE BEST TO WAIT A FEW DAYS, AS SUGGESTED
IN PARA. 8 REFTEL, TO SEE WHAT BAR-ON PROVIDES BEFORE
MAKING AN APPROACH HERE.

2. ON THE PRACTICAL QUESTION OF WHAT CAN THE U.S. DO
REGARDING THE ISSUE OF MISTREATMENT OF DETAINEES, I THINK THAT
A HIGH-LEVEL APPROACH TO THE ISRAELIS WOULD BE USEFUL TO
REEMPHASIZE OUR STRONG VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT. IN THIS
REGARD, I AGREE THAT FOCUSING ON EARLIER ICRC ACCESS TO
ARAB PRISONERS IS, REALISTICALLY, THE ONLY INCREASED EXTRA-
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INSTITUTIONAL MONITORING OF THEIR SECURITY SYSTEM THE
ISRAELIS WILL PROBABLY ALLOW.

3. THUS, I WILL SEE WEIZMAN AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY
FOLLOWING BAR-ON RESPONSE TO MAKE POINTS PARA. 7 REFTEL.
I WILL ALSO REMIND HIM THAT PRO-FORMA DENIALS,
AS IN CASE OF BEIT JALA INCIDENT, DO NOT ALWAYS HOLD UP

UNDER SCRUTINY AND ASK HIM TO PERSONALLY SATISFY HIMSELF
ON THIS MATTER. FINALLY, I INTEND TO INCLUDE
MENTION OF MEZVINSKY DESIRE TO STOP IN ISRAEL. HIGH-LEVEL
U.S. CONCERN ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, AS EMPHASIZED BY
MEZVINSKY VISIT, WILL LEND ADDED FORCE TO DEMARCHE.
LEWIS

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NNN

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